

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 201 – Personnel Safety

201.6 – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

The purpose of dispatching a RIT is to better ensure the safety of our crews working in an IDLH environment at a working structure fire. It is critical to get one assigned as soon as possible once such working conditions are reasonably identified. For this reason, Battalion 1 or the first due Company Officer may request a RIT assignment to be added to responding units based on observed conditions or the dispatch information given. If this does not occur, the initial IC of a working structure fire with plans to conduct interior operations shall immediately request one to be dispatched.

A RIT assignment will include one additional Engine or Ladder Company and one additional Medic unit. The Engine or Ladder crew, along with the Medic Bravo position, shall join together to form the Rapid Intervention Team. The Medic unit Paramedic shall be in charge of personnel rehabilitation and medical needs assessments. Dispatch shall advise the responding units that they are being dispatched as the RIT assignment.

Responsibilities of the RIT on the Fire Ground

The crews responding and assigned to RIT must notify IC of their arrival and get in position as soon as possible.

The RIT Officer shall:

- Designate a RIT staging area separate from the personnel staging area and ensure that all needed tools are staged at that location.
- Conduct a 360 degree walk-a-round of the structure when practical to identify any potential hazards and to identify which sectors the interior crews are operating in.
- Ensure proactive measures are taken to facilitate potential rescue as the situation dictates.
- Develop a rescue strategy based on construction of the building, interior crew locations, and current fire conditions. This strategy shall include both a way to reach the personnel and a way to quickly remove them from the structure.
- Communicate the rescue strategy to all members of the RIT.

Upon the completion of any needed proactive measures, the RIT shall remain in their designated staging area ready for an immediate response to a MAYDAY. The RIT officer shall keep alert to changing incident conditions and make follow-up 360 degree walk-a-rounds as needed.

At a minimum, the following tools should be organized at the RIT staging area:

- RIT Bag
- Search/tag line
- Thermal Imaging Camera

- Circular Saw
- Chain Saw
- Sledgehammers
- Assortment of hand tools, wire cutters, axes and TNT tools
- Rope and webbing

The RIT members should also gather and stage any other tools that would assist their rescue efforts based on the construction of the building and any other special hazards.

Personnel Rehabilitation

The Medic unit Paramedic shall establish a rehabilitation area and continually assess the health and medical needs of all incident personnel. Depending on the size and scale of the incident, additional personnel may need to be assigned to assist with rehabilitation.

The Rehabilitation Area should be located outside the hazard zones, i.e. away from the smoke and in a dry and warm/cool location as the environmental situation dictates

In addition, the Medic unit Paramedic, with additional support, should be prepared to receive any potential victim(s) from the Hot Zone and continue with treatment and transport. Medic unit personnel assigned to rehabilitation are not required to wear full protective gear.